

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1739

To promote freedom of the press around the world.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 1, 2009

Mr. DODD introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to
the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To promote freedom of the press around the world.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Daniel Pearl Freedom
5 of the Press Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. FREEDOM OF THE PRESS.**

7 (a) INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RE-
8 LATING TO FREEDOM OF THE PRESS WORLDWIDE IN AN-
9 NUAL COUNTRY REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRAC-
10 TICES.—The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 is amend-
11 ed—

12 (1) in section 116(d) (22 U.S.C. 2151n(d))—

1 (A) in paragraph (10), by striking “and”
2 at the end;

3 (B) in paragraph (11), by striking the pe-
4 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

5 (C) by adding at the end the following new
6 paragraph:

7 “(12) wherever applicable—

8 “(A) a description of the status of freedom
9 of the press, including initiatives in favor of
10 freedom of the press and efforts to improve or
11 preserve, as appropriate, the independence of
12 the media, together with an assessment of
13 progress made as a result of those efforts;

14 “(B) an identification of countries in which
15 there were violations of freedom of the press,
16 including direct physical attacks, imprisonment,
17 indirect sources of pressure, and censorship by
18 governments, military, intelligence, or police
19 forces, criminal groups, or armed extremist or
20 rebel groups; and

21 “(C) in countries where there are particu-
22 larly severe violations of freedom of the press—

23 “(i) whether government authorities
24 of each such country participate in, facili-

1 tate, or condone such violations of the free-
2 dom of the press; and

3 “(ii) what steps the government of
4 each such country has taken to preserve
5 the safety and independence of the media,
6 and to ensure the prosecution of those in-
7 dividuals who attack or murder journal-
8 ists.”; and

9 (2) in section 502B (22 U.S.C. 2304), by add-
10 ing at the end the following new subsection:

11 “(i) The report required by subsection (b) shall in-
12 clude, wherever applicable—

13 “(1) a description of the status of freedom of
14 the press, including initiatives in favor of freedom of
15 the press and efforts to improve or preserve, as ap-
16 propriate, the independence of the media, together
17 with an assessment of progress made as a result of
18 those efforts;

19 “(2) an identification of countries in which
20 there were violations of freedom of the press, includ-
21 ing direct physical attacks, imprisonment, indirect
22 sources of pressure, and censorship by governments,
23 military, intelligence, or police forces, criminal
24 groups, or armed extremist or rebel groups; and

1 “(3) in countries where there are particularly
2 severe violations of freedom of the press—

3 “(A) whether government authorities of
4 each such country participate in, facilitate, or
5 condone such violations of the freedom of the
6 press; and

7 “(B) what steps the government of each
8 such country has taken to preserve the safety
9 and independence of the media, and to ensure
10 the prosecution of those individuals who attack
11 or murder journalists.”.

12 (b) FREEDOM OF THE PRESS GRANT PROGRAM.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall
14 administer a grant program with the aim of pro-
15 moting freedom of the press worldwide. The grant
16 program shall be administered by the Department of
17 State’s Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and
18 Labor in consultation with the Undersecretary for
19 Public Affairs and Public Diplomacy.

20 (2) AMOUNTS AND TIME.—Grants may be
21 awarded to nonprofit and international organizations
22 and may span multiple years, up to 5 years.

23 (3) PURPOSE.—Grant proposals should promote
24 and broaden press freedoms by strengthening the
25 independence of journalists and media organizations,

1 promoting a legal framework for freedom of the
2 press, or through providing regionally and culturally
3 relevant training and professionalization of skills to
4 meet international standards in both traditional and
5 digital media.

6 (c) MEDIA ORGANIZATION DEFINED.—In this sec-
7 tion, the term “media organization” means a group or or-
8 ganization that gathers and disseminates news and infor-
9 mation to the public (through any medium of mass com-
10 munication) in a foreign country in which the group or
11 organization is located, except that the term does not in-
12 clude a group or organization that is primarily an agency
13 or instrumentality of the government of such foreign coun-
14 try. The term includes an individual who is an agent or
15 employee of such group or organization who acts within
16 the scope of such agency or employment.

17 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
18 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
19 necessary to carry out this section.

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